

Urban District Council of Barrowford.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BARROWFORD
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GISBURN ROAD, BARROWFORD,
January 11th, 1909.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my 16th Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the District.

During the year ending December 31st, 1908, there have been 75 deaths registered, 39 males and 36 females. Calculating the population at 5,500—which in my opinion is much below the actual number of inhabitants—would give an annual death rate of 13·6 per 1,000.

The births registered were 133, 69 males and 64 females, giving an annual birth rate of 24·1 per 1,000.

The following table shows at what ages the deaths occurred :

Deaths under 1 year.....	21	} under 5 years. ...	27
1 year and under 5 years.....	6		
5 years and under 15 years...	3	} 5 years and over ..	48
15 years and under 25 years..	2		
25 years and under 65 years..	28		
65 years and over.....	15		
			—
			Total..75

The rate of deaths under one year to 1,000 births is 157. Death rate from seven principal epidemic diseases per 1,000 of population 1·09.

I enclose a detailed list of causes of deaths and the ages at which they died.

Under the "Notification of Infectious Disease Act" there have been notified 40 cases. The cases were as follows:

Scarlet Fever.....	17
Erysipelas	14
Enteric Fever	8
Diphtheria	1
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Total..	40

Compared with 59 the previous year.

Of the cases of Scarlet Fever, 8 occurred in the first quarter and 8 in the last quarter. Every care was taken to prevent the spread of the disease, the cases being isolated at their homes and disinfectants freely used, and the homes fumigated. All children from the infected houses were prevented from attending the day schools. Bills containing suggestions for preventing the spread of the disease were distributed and posted throughout the district. I would recommend in future that every one who is supplied with disinfectants be given one of these bills.

With reference to the cases of Enteric Fever, I have already placed before you a special report, on the 9th September, 1908, namely:—

"I beg to make a special report concerning the cases of Enteric Fever occurring in the square. There have been, since January, 6 cases of Enteric Fever reported in the Square, and one case at Old Row, adjoining the Square. One case occurred in January, one in June, one in July, three in August, and one in September. Three cases were removed to the Sanatorium, one of which proved fatal. In company with the Sanitary Inspector I have visited every house in the Square, and I would strongly advise the Council to take immediate steps to have all the houses in the Square, except Nos. 1 and 3, lime-washed and other-

wise cleaned, also No. 94, Gisburn Road and 4, Old Row, and I herewith enclose my certificate for that purpose.

“Every care has been taken to disinfect the houses. I have ordered the drains to be well flushed every day and disinfectants used, and also to have the ashpits emptied every week.”

I am now able to state that the recommendations contained in such special report have been fully carried out.

I again recommend to the Council the advisability of procuring an apparatus for the disinfection of clothing, etc.

During the year two roads, viz., Carr Hall Road and Park Avenue, have been made up—the former widened to 23 feet wide, and 941 yards of curbing, 980 yards of channelling, 715 yards of paving, 93 yards of flagging, and 15 yards of sewerage have been laid in these roads. 58 yards of 15-in. pipes, 305 yards of 12-in. pipes, and 169 yards of 9-in. pipes have been laid in the ditch on the side of Wheatley Lane Road.

The extension to the Sewage Outfall Works is now proceeding.

One new weaving shed—Holmefield Mill—has been erected and 34 new houses have been built.

Plans have been prepared for the paving of the remaining portions of the Main Road from Reedyford Bridge to Higherford Bridge, and for the streets on the easterly side of Gisburn Road near Holmefield Mills, and it is expected that this work will be carried out during the present year, which will be a desirable improvement.

About seven-eighths of the Ashpits in the District are now covered over.

Throughout the year we have been plentifully supplied with good water from the Nelson Corporation reservoirs.

The District is well drained by pipe sewers, and the sewerage disposed of by intermittent downward filtration; the excreta is deposited on farms and the ashes tipped in the District.

The Sanitary Inspector and I have regularly inspected the slaughter-houses. There are five in the District. They are in good order and kept clean, and the ventilation satisfactory.

The dairies are well kept, and the cow sheds clean, but the latter short of air-space, light and ventilation. I should recommend to the Council the advisability of adopting the regulations of the Local Government Board relating to the dairies, cow sheds, and milk shops.

The factories and workshops have also been visited by us. The sanitary accommodation in one of the factories is unsatisfactory, also the egress in case of fire at the same factory.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK DE B. PIM,

Medical Officer of Health.